



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

been made for BEEFSTEAK (*bifteck*), BULL-DOG (*bouledogue*), BOWLING GREEN (*boulingrin*), or PUDDING (*pouding*). While we find BRING DIR'S (Ital. *brindisi*, Fr. *brinde*), HABERSACK (*havresac*), and TRINKEN (Fr. *tringuer*), we look in vain for SAUERKRAUT (*choucrouste*), EIDERDAUN (*édredon*) and WAS IST DAS? (*vasistas*).

An especially striking omission is that of all discussion of the numerous etyma advanced for O. Fr. *aoi!* of the 'Chanson de Roland.'

But enough has been written to justify the designation of this admirable work, in its present condition, as a "first draft." It will undoubtedly pass rapidly to a second edition, when we may confidently look for great things in the way of additions and improvements.

H. A. TODD.

Leland Stanford Junior Univ.

GERMAN SLANG.

Deutsches Slang. Eine Sammlung familiärer Ausdrücke und Redensarten, zusammengestellt von ARNOLD GENTHE. Strassburg: K. I. Trübner, 1892.

MR. GENTHE gives us in eighty-eight pages an Introduction on German slang, and an alphabetical list of about fifteen hundred slang expressions, together with their respective German literary equivalents and, in many cases, accompanied by an illustration. Here are two examples:

Blech, n., Unsinn; z. B. redet doch nicht solches Blech!

Flezen, v. refl., sich flegelhaft hinsetzen, hinlegen: er flezt sich aufs Sopha.

As the author assures us, his collection does not contain any merely provincial slang, but only such as is used in society all over the German Empire; namely, the general slang, which within the last two decades, has had a most luxuriant growth, so that a native German who, after a twenty years' absence, returning home, feels like a stranger.

As the chief tributaries of this stately river of German slang, the following are pointed out:

1. Dialectic elements; and here it is the Low-German dialect (Plattdeutsch), the idiom of the popular F. Reuter, that has made the largest contribution, a fact that is easily ex-

plained by the geographical site of the capital of the German Empire.

2. Such High-German words as, in addition to their literary meaning, have received a secondary one, bearing the stamp of slang; for example, *Pech*, 'pitch,' in slang means 'ill luck,' so that 'ich hatte Pech' precisely answers to the slang phrase 'I had hard luck.'

3. New words. Of these the greater part are entirely German in their make-up. *Vertrommeln*, for example, has *Trommel*, 'drum,' for its stem, *ver-* for a prefix, and *-n* for a suffix. 'Jemanden vertrommeln' means 'to thrash some one, to give him a good drumming.'

But there are also several that contain foreign elements, usually in their endings. Thus *schauderös* (*-ös*=French *-eux, -euse*) 'schauderhaft'; *Dicktitiide* 'Dicke'; *knappemang* (*-mang*=French *-ment*) 'knapp,' used adverbially; *ein Dickus*, 'ein Dicker.'

Others, again, are onomatopoeic; for example, *quurksen*, which expresses the sound produced by a person walking in wet shoes.

Finally, there are new words of entirely arbitrary coinage, coming mostly out of the ever busy mint of the German university. A German student before his examination has not 'Angst,' but 'Bammel,' and when dunned by his creditors, he does not make any 'Ausflüchte,' but 'Menkenke.'

The usefulness of this slang vocabulary, the purpose of which is chiefly a practical one, is obvious. It answers a great many questions which none of the literary dictionaries answer, and is quite indispensable to every reader of the modern German comedy and other comic writers, where slang is at home and constantly gaining ground. But still better service will it do to the foreigner, who is learning the German language conversationally among the Germans at home. For the familiar conversation of the average German, even in the best classes of society, is full of slang, and the learner is quite liable to mistake slang expressions for literary ones and to use them unseasonably. The most ludicrous slips have in this way been made by perfectly innocent and well-meaning strangers, and spicy anecdotes abound.

For a second edition we would suggest to the author that the usefulness of his book may be

increased by a still more liberal supply of illustrations, as the mere literary equivalent of a slang term is often insufficient to show its exact and peculiar use.

We feel well assured that the little book, cleverly and judiciously compiled as it is, will make for itself many warm friends.

H. C. O. HUSS.

Princeton College.

FRENCH TRAGEDY.

Sénèque et Hardy. Dissertation présentée à la Faculté de Philosophie de l'Université de Leipzig par JULES BÉRANECK. Leipzig: Ferdinand Bär. 1890, pp. 27.

MR. BÉRANECK'S dissertation is, as he informs us, only part of his original thesis entitled: "Sénèque et la tragédie classique jusqu'au xviii^e siècle." We find no direct reference made as to how far the author carried his investigation, nor does the manner of treatment suggest any definite limit. Why Hardy should be included is not quite clear, as his literary career belongs altogether to the seventeenth century. Yet whether this is the closing chapter of the thesis or not, it cannot be said that any tangible and convincing results have been reached. The author evidently has undertaken to cover too much ground in a field hitherto but little explored.

The influence of the Spanish and Italian drama is briefly sketched (pp. 1-6); two pages only are devoted to Hardy's predecessors; the rest is taken up by the main subject, the scanty results being divided into four sections:

1. Mots et Expressions.
2. Artifices de Style.
3. Scènes et Situations.
4. Remarques générales.

The last paragraph contains a notice, under a rather misleading heading, of the indirect influence exerted through Garnier and Jodelle; nothing new or important, however, is presented. This view, together with some remarks on Hardy's indebtedness to Garnier, ought to have been made the starting point of the discussion; such an arrangement would have prevented the writer from magnifying Seneca's influence, which is not so strong and palpable as he would seem to think.—In the

bibliography on Hardy, we miss a notice of C. Nagel's publication in *Ausgaben und Abhandlungen*, No. xxviii.

H. SCHMIDT-WARTENBERG.

University of Mississippi.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE ANGLO-SAXON *gīen*, *gīena*.

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES:

SIRS:—In the London *Academy*, Dec. 19, 1891, Prof. Hempl published an explanation of the A.-S. *gīen gīena*, (*gēn, gēna*) and *gīet, gīeta* (*gēt, gēta*). According to Prof. Hempl each word is a compound of the Germanic *in+* demonstr. pron. *hin-* (masc.) or *hit-* (neut.) Germanic *in-hinō* > Wessex **gīehin, gīena*; non-Wessex **gēhin, gēn* or **gēohin* [*gēon*], *gēona*. Germanic *in-hitō* > *gīet, gēt, gēot*.

Without committing myself for the present to any opinion upon the *gīet* series, I should like to express my doubts at least upon the *gīen* series.

True, Sievers, § 317, gives the form *gīena*. But on what authority? I am reluctant to put on the air of challenging so eminent an investigator, for I know personally that his brilliant generalizations are based upon data collected with infinite pains. Nevertheless, I should like to know what genuine Wessex texts contain the form *gīen*, or *gīena*. I have not a single instance of the Wessex use of the word, nor can I find any in the dictionaries. The word is not cited by Cosijn, for I have a complete alphabetical list of all the words mentioned by him in his treatment of the vowels, Part I. Earle does not give it in his Glossary to the 'Chronicle,' nor does Sweet give it in any shape in his 'O. E. T.' By consulting Bouterwek's Glossary to the Northumbrian Gospels and examining the corresponding passages in the other texts printed by Skeat, I find, only *gen, Matt.* xix. 20 R¹, and this Rushworth is Mercian.

The word is not in the Wright-Wülker Glossaries nor in Aelfric's Grammar, pp. 222-242, on adverbs (Zupitza). Bosworth-Toller cite *gīen Gen.* 2741, *Gen.* 2195, *Juliana* 417, to which add *gina, Elene* 1071. The absence of the word from Wessex texts leads me, then, to infer that